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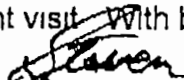
TO. Chris Smart, IDRC

June 3, 1996

RE. Report on Ghana Linkage Investigation

1) After returning yesterday from the trip to Ghana, I thought I should get a short report to you as quickly as possible, so that we would have time to discuss it before you meet with representatives of the various development studies programmes in Asia later this month. Here is the report which I drafted on my final day in Ghana, and the memo of understanding between myself and IEA about what seemed to me the best way to proceed. There are also much longer and more detailed notes from the interviews, which can be provided either at our meeting or earlier if you prefer.

2) From here, it seems sensible to talk with CIDA, and also to prepare a fuller analysis for Trent. But we should talk first, to consider various issues that come out of what was an excellent visit. With best regards,


Steven

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Report to IDRC and CIDA on University Linkage Potential

-- Steven Langdon

-- Accra, Ghana, May, 1996

Introduction:

1) This report outlines the findings of my investigations in Ghana from May 19th to May 29th. The purpose of this study was to explore possible linkages between development studies programs in various Canadian universities and counterpart institutions in Ghana, especially in the North (IDRC File 02581-23). A total of 15 institutions were involved in discussions during this investigation, four of them on two occasions. The conclusion of the review and analysis is that three viable options exist by which linkages could be set up between Canadian development studies programs and counterpart institutions in Ghana. One arrangement would be particularly appropriate for the longer term institutional interests of the north, but all three could be structured to be oriented toward the north (*Western Ghana?*)

Major Findings:

2) This investigation found widespread interest and enthusiasm among Ghanaian institutions regarding the establishment of an academic year option for Canadian development studies students in Ghana. There was support particularly for the combination of half course work and half field placement that has characterized the Trent University program in Ecuador. The Ghanaian NGO community felt that such Canadian field placements could contribute in a useful way to Ghanaian community-

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based rural and environmental NGOs in the North (and other poorer parts of the country,) the National Development Planning Commission in the Office of the President felt that some contribution could be made to gaps in the community development personnel associated with district assemblies in certain parts of the country, the Metropolitan Accra civic authorities felt that placement students could be helpful in the context of projects responding to very rapid urbanization and urban poverty in the capital, and the government's Crop Research Institute felt that communication and extension services in which they were involved could benefit from placement inputs

3) All four of the university institutions with which this concept was discussed expressed strong support for the idea, and were anxious to see some involvement on the part of their institution. This includes the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development at the University of Science and Technology at Kumasi, the Institute of African Studies and the Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research at University of Ghana at Legon, and the University of Development Studies at Tamale and Navrongo in the North

4) It was suggested that the effectiveness of the Canadian student experience would be enhanced by including in the program five Ghanaian university graduates (mostly women,) who would use their National Service year to take part. This was strongly supported by other Ghanaian institutions, such as the Office of the President, since it would be a sign of partnership in this program and would contribute to training needs in Ghana as well

5) There was majority support among ISSER faculty to offer to organize this linkage, however, the director of the Institute was not enthusiastic about such a major responsibility and suggested that involvement by ISSER people in one of the intensive courses might make more sense. A final commentary from ISSER may be expected soon

6) The Institute of African Studies was more unanimously enthusiastic about taking responsibility for managing the linkage, and is thinking through more carefully some of the costs that IAS feels would be involved. IAS is well regarded by the Association of African Universities and would represent a strong potential partner

after this, no further mention of IAS!

7) It was the strong view of the Vice-Chancellor of UDS in the North that ultimately UDS should be the logical partner in a development studies linkage. But UDS feels that it would not presently have the ability to manage such a linkage, given severe infrastructure problems, and uncertainty in the definition of its own programs. Therefore it strongly recommended that a linkage be established through a non-university linkage for a pilot phase, in the expectation that UDS would be prepared to take on the linkage responsibility in three or four years. From this emerged the suggested benefits of a linkage managed by the Institute of Economic Affairs, a non-profit NGO like the North-South Institute in Canada, that would work with one of the strongest Northern community development consulting groups, GAS Development Associates (run by a UDS faculty member, who is a Ph D graduate of a Canadian University)

8) The mechanisms by which such an arrangement could be set up through the IEA (and GAS Development Associates) were explored in some detail, and a memorandum of understanding is appended by which such a linkage could be instituted

Conclusion:

how does he reach this conclusion?

9) A good way to proceed would be to pursue this possible linkage through IEA. CIDA and High Commission personnel in Accra indicated that they felt this would be an effective and secure mechanism to use, and that this approach would avoid problems associated with

periodic closures of the university. It is not clear at this stage that CIDA financial support would be assured for such a linkage, beginning with perhaps 10 Canadian development studies students in September 1997. But further exploration of this possibility of support, limited to an initial pilot phase after which the program would become self-sustaining on the basis of student fees, should be a priority.

10) Further input from IDRC will also be important as this project idea moves forward 27

Appendix 1 Memo of Understanding

Appendix 2 Notes from Interviews

Charles Mensa ; May 29, 1996

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Steven Langdon
May 29/96

Memo of Understanding - May, 1996

Ghana-Canada University Student Linkage Project

- 1) This memo is meant to summarize certain key points of agreement between Charles Mensa, Executive Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Accra, and Steven Langdon, Social and Economic Analysis, and Associate Professor of Comparative Development Studies at Trent University. These points represent the basis on which both parties would carry forward the planned establishment of an academic year option for Canadian development studies undergraduate students, working through the Institute of Economic Affairs(IEA) in Accra
- 2) IEA would take overall responsibility for setting up, implementing and managing this Canadian university student linkage project in Ghana
- 3) The overall academic requirements and broad program shape of the linkage project would be decided upon by an agreement between representatives of Canadian universities involved and representatives of IEA
- 4) In general the student linkage program would be expected to include the equivalent of three intensive courses for half of the academic year, and a supervised field placement for each student for the other half of the academic year
- 5) IEA would appoint a senior and respected Ghanaian academic as overall program director each year. In the initial year the IEA plans to appoint Professor E A Boateng, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana at Cape Coast to this position
- 6) IEA would also form a small advisory committee for the program with representatives

on it from institutions such as the University of Development Studies in the north, the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research, both at the University of Ghana at Legon, the Centre for Sustainable Development Initiatives (CENSUDI) in Accra and Bolgatanga, the Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organizations in Development (GAPVOD) in Accra, the National Development Planning Commission, et al

7) IEA would organize residency requirements, housing options, library access, emergency assistance for health or other reasons, and provide general support for the Canadian university students involved in the linkage project IEA would also organize and provide periodic supervision of the field placement arrangements, in co-operation with the Ghanaian institutions involved

8) IEA would also plan with GAS Development Associates an intensive workshop and field experience dealing with community development in Ghana before the field placements took place IEA would also implement the academic program agreed upon with Canadian university representatives, as noted above

9) It is understood that a total of 10-15 Canadian senior undergraduate students in development studies and closely-related areas of study would be involved in this project each year during this pilot phase

10) It is also a goal of this linkage to involve 5 Ghana young people (mostly women) who are in their National Service year as participants in this program, so as to benefit Ghanaian training needs and to help Canadian students make easier ties to Ghanaian society

11) Steven Langdon agrees to stay involved in the project to provide liaison to Canadian institutions during the pilot phase. Subject to financial and other arrangements being established, he is also willing to provide up to eight weeks of supervisory, training and institutional advisory services in Ghana each year of the pilot phase.

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12) It is agreed that one IEA full-time staff person, in addition to the Program Director, will be given the university student linkage project as his or her priority and primary responsibility. It may also be possible to have a full-time Canadian intern attached to this project, in which case IEA would agree to provide space and logistical support for her or him as well.

13) It is agreed that IEA's fees for carrying out these responsibilities would be based on a student fee from each student, plus an overall fee to be paid in addition. The total payments to IEA for each year of the pilot phase would be expected to be about Cdn\$55,000-65,000. IEA would expect to cover costs in Ghana to Ghanaian personnel and for extra operating costs of the IEA related to this project from this total.

14) It is understood that CIDA is to be approached to help finance this pilot phase for a total of three years. Such CIDA assistance would be expected to cover a portion of the overall program costs for the students, given the emphasis in placements on strengthening civil society and working to alleviate poverty in the north of Ghana. Such assistance would also cover the role of Steven Langdon in this project in Ghana, and costs of some academic staff exchange visits involving UDS in the north.